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Attorney Docket No. 24222-X3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Subraman Rao CHERUKURI

Art Unit: 1615

Serial No.: 09/982,093

Examiner: B. Fuba

Filed: October 19, 2001

Confirmation No. 1800/2000 57

For: **DRUG DELIVERY SYSTEMS**

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.114

Commissioner for Patents
Box AF
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 31, 2003. The three-month shortened statutory period was set to expire on June 30, 2003; thus a petition for a three-month extension of time and check therefor are being filed herewith. Accordingly, this response is timely filed.

Because the present invention is under final rejection, Applicants are also filing a Request for Continued Examination herewith in order to ensure that the application is kept alive. The following amendment should be entered under 37 C.F.R. 1.114 because the amendments to the claims and remarks place this application in condition for allowance. As such, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

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